



For the Record... from RMEF

Since RMEF was founded in 1984, our mission—ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat—has never changed. But the way we accomplish our mission is certainly evolving. Today, more than ever, elk country is facing issues that RMEF cannot ignore. Let us state for the record where RMEF stands on a few of these issues.

Habitat: RMEF believes that habitat degradation and loss are the most crucial long-term issues facing elk and other wildlife. Land stewardship always has been, and always will be, our top priority.

Hunting: RMEF believes that hunting is conservation. Without leadership, funding and functional management by hunters, conservation in America could not exist. More than 90 percent of RMEF members are hunters—and RMEF will continue to strongly advocate for the rights and interests of its members.

Wolves: RMEF believes that wolf predation is compounding the problems of habitat degradation and loss. Elk calf survival in some areas is now less than 10 percent—too low to sustain herds for the future. The Northern Yellowstone elk herd has declined 68 percent. The Western Yellowstone Madison/Firehole elk herd has declined 85 percent. The Gallatin Canyon elk herd in Montana has declined 67 percent. The Clearwater Basin elk herd in Idaho has declined 86 percent. The Bitterroot elk herd in Montana has declined 60 percent. RMEF is urging Congress to support two bi-partisan measures, H.R. 509 and S. 249, to exempt wolves from the Endangered Species Act and allow wolf management via state-regulated hunting and other viable methods.

Restoring Elk: RMEF believes there is no higher calling in conservation than restoring a native game species to sustainable, hunt-able, balanced populations. When the citizens of Wisconsin, Kentucky and Tennessee decided to bring elk back to those parts of the species' former range, RMEF was there to help. Those successes are among the most rewarding and popular accomplishments in our organization's history. In 2010, we helped citizens launch elk restoration projects in two more states, Missouri and Virginia. Both states will offer public elk-hunting opportunities in the years to come. The herd in Kentucky, now at more than 10,000 animals and the largest elk population east of the Rockies, is the source herd for relocating surplus elk to Missouri and Virginia.

2010 Accomplishments:

- Passed 5.9 million acres, mostly on public land, enhanced or conserved
- Passed 600,000 acres of private land opened for public access including hunting
- Set a new record in membership at 178,000 (over 22 percent growth since 2007)

We sincerely thank you for your continued support of RMEF!

Respectfully,

M. David Allen
President & CEO

